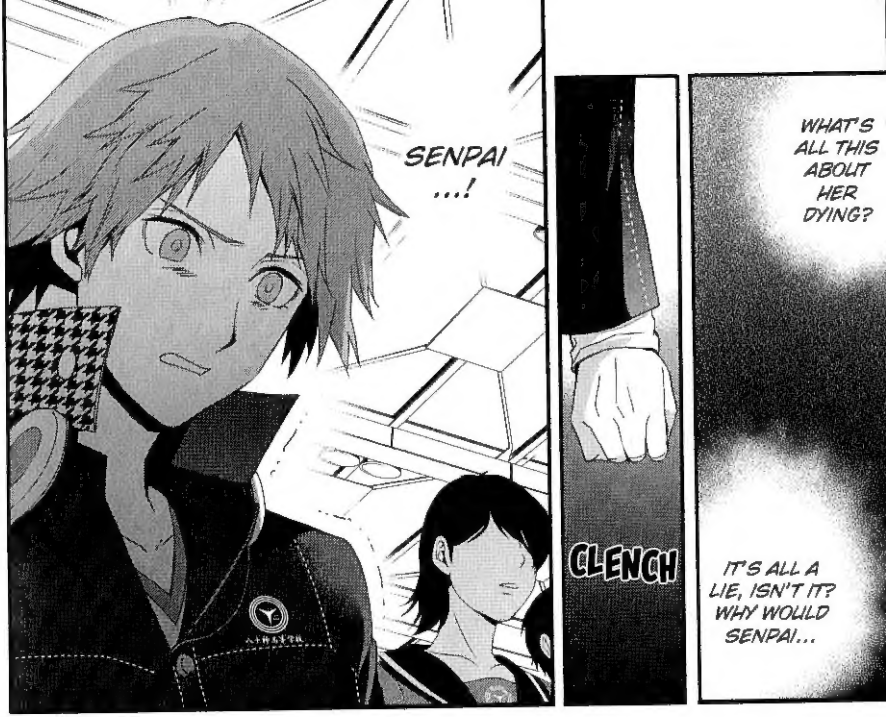
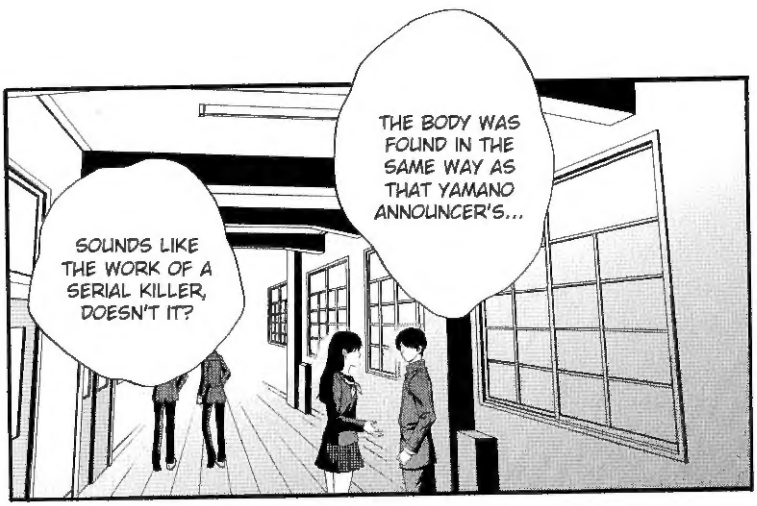
#07
KONISHI-SAN'S BODY WAS DISCOVERED EARLY THIS MORNING.
AS FOR THE CAUSE OF HER DEATH, THE POLICE ARE STILL INVESTIGATING.
whisper
whisper
KONISHI-SENPAI...
...IS DEAD...?
...H...
"HER BODY WAS FOUND"... THAT'S...


SENPAI ...!
CLENCH
WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT HER DYING?
IT'S ALL A LIE, ISN'T IT? WHY WOULD SENPAI...


THE BODY WAS FOUND IN THE SAME WAY AS THAT YAMANO ANNOUNCER'S...
SOUNDS LIKE THE WORK OF A SERIAL KILLER, DOESN'T IT?

SPEAKING OF, THERE WAS A GIRL THAT LOOKED LIKE SAKI ON THAT "MIDNIGHT CHANNEL" THING ON TV...
TV...?
DIDN'T THAT YAMANO ANNOUNCER WHO DIED SHOW UP ON THERE, TOO...?
IS THERE A REASON BEHIND THIS "MIDNIGHT CHANNEL"?
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THAT'S... ARE YOU SAYING...
THAT THE PEOPLE WHO SHOW UP ON THE MIDNIGHT CHANNEL... DIE...?
THAT'S NOT ALL.
THAT "TEDDIE" GUY WE MET OVER THERE...
SAID THAT SOMEONE'S BEEN THROWING PEOPLE IN.

YOU DON'T THINK IT'S CONNECTED TO THIS?
MAYBE "THAT WORLD" IS RELATED TO SENPAI AND THAT YAMANO LADY'S DEATHS?
HANAMURA ...

NOW THAT I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT, I CAN'T IGNORE IT...

THIS IS SOMETHING ONLY I CAN DO!
shff

DAD... I'M GONNA BORROW THIS...
HEY, ARE YOU SERIOUSLY DOING THIS? IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
YEAH... BUT WE MADE IT BACK ONCE ALREADY, DIDN'T WE?
LIKE I THOUGHT, IT WON'T WORK IF IT'S JUST ME...

YEAH.
IF THAT WORLD REALLY IS RELATED TO THE MURDERS, WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE IT ALONE.
NARUKAMI. SORRY, BUT WILL YOU COME WITH ME?
OKAY, LET'S GET GOING. WE CAN'T JUST STAND AROUND FOREVER.
W- WAIT...
...I SEE.
YEAH.
...I'M GLAD YOU REALLY ARE A RELIABLE GUY.
THANKS, NARUKAMI.

WE MIGHT GET OUR HANDS ON SOME CLUES IF WE GO IN AGAIN...
WHY DID KONISHI-SENPAI HAVE TO DIE?
I WANT TO KNOW.

AH!
IT'S Y-YOU GUYS... WHY ARE YOU HERE AGAIN...?
CULPRIT?
I KNOW! YOU TWO MUST BE THE CULPRITS!
MY INSTINCTS TELL ME YOU GUYS WEREN'T FORCED INSIDE HERE, SO...
YOU'RE THE NUMBER ONE SUSPECTS!
THINGS HAVE GOTTEN WEIRD OVER HERE EVER SINCE SOMEONE STARTED THROWING PEOPLE IN!

GRRRR
RAWR
I'M PAWS-ITIVE THAT YOU'RE THE ONES THROWING PEOPLE IN HERE!
OW, OW! I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S NOT US!
IF WE CAME IN HERE WITHOUT A WAY TO GET OUT, WE'D DIE, WOULDN'T WE?!
HEY, HANG ON...
SO, SOMEONE THREW SENPAI AND YAMANO IN HERE WITH THE INTENT OF KILLING THEM... ISN'T THAT POSSIBLE?
AND IF THAT'S TRUE...
SO THE TWO OF THEM DIED IN HERE AFTER ALL...?!
IF WE COULDN'T GET OUT, WE'D DIE...?
... WAIT.

JAB
PEOPLE ARE DYING IN OUR WORLD! EVERY TIME THE FOG APPEARS, A DEAD BODY SHOWS UP!
HEY, YOU! ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS!
"SHADOWS"?
WHEN THE FOG LEAKS OUT OVER THERE, IT CLEARS UP HERE.
WHEN THE FOG CLEARS, THE SHADOWS GET VIOLENT, SO IT'S BEARY DANGEROUS.
!
THERE'S DEFINITELY A CONNECTION WITH THIS PLACE! YOU'D BETTER TELL US WHAT YOU KNOW!
BUT INSTEAD...
...I GUESS I CAN BEARLIEVE THAT YOU GUYS AREN'T THE CULPRITS FOR NOW.

I WANT YOU GUYS TO HELP ME TRACK DOWN THE REAL CULPRIT!
HAA? WHY US?
RIGHT NOW THIS PLACE IS MY HOME, AND IT'S ALL MESSED UP... AND I...
WH... WHAT'S WITH THE TEARS ALL OF A SUDDEN...?
DAMMIT, HE WAS PRETTY ENERGETIC JUST A SECOND AGO, TOO...
AHH, JEEZ. YOU SERIOUSLY SOUND CRAZY.
IF WE FIND THIS CULPRIT, WE MIGHT SOLVE THE CASE, TOO.
I'm so happy, I can bear-ly contain it!
sparkle
YOU SURE ARE SELF-INTERESTED...
HEY, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
...SURE, WHY NOT HELP HIM OUT?

THERE WERE PEOPLE THROWN IN HERE EARLIER WHO DISAPPEARED, AND I KNOW WHERE THEY WERE!
"PEOPLE WHO WERE THROWN IN HERE EARLIER"... COULD YOU MEAN SAKI-SENPAI...?
OH, BUT FIRST... YOU TWO, PUT THESE ON.
HUH? GLASSES?
WE MIGHT FIND A CLUE, SO I'LL GUIDE YOU THERE!
WHOA, THIS IS AMAZING!
WHEN YOU WEAR THEM, IT'S LIKE THE FOG ISN'T EVEN THERE...

ANYWAY, THE ONLY THING WE KNOW RIGHT NOW IS THAT THERE'S A POSSIBILITY SENPAI WAS THROWN IN HERE.
WE MIGHT FIND SOMETHING ELSE.
NARUKAMI, LET'S GO.
WHAT THE HELL IS WITH THIS PLACE...? IT LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THE SHOPPING DISTRICT IN OUR TOWN...
LATELY THERE'S BEEN WEIRD PLACES SHOWING UP...
IF THIS IS INABA'S SHOPPING DISTRICT, THEN OVER THIS WAY SHOULD BE SENPAI'S...

WHAT'S HERE?
SHADOWS ...
THEY'RE GOING TO ATTACK!
T-THEY'RE HERE!
W-WAIT A SEC!
SWIRL...
HUH...?
WHOA ...?!
WH
SH

WHUMP
WHA...
THESE ARE SHADOWS?!
R
A
O
R
!!
OH CRAP ...!
CRASH

KAMI ...?
... NARU...
FOR A MOMENT...
NARUKAMI LOOKED LIKE HE WAS SMILING...

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING?!
IZA-NAGI!
IS NARUKAMI MOVING THAT THING?
THIS ISN'T... A DREAM, IS IT?

INCREDIBLE ...
SLASH
HE BEAT THOSE TERRIFYING THINGS AS THOUGH THEY WERE NOTHING!
NARUKAMI!

IF NARUKAMI CAN DO SOMETHING AMAZING LIKE THAT...
EAGER
EAGER
HEY, DO YOU THINK I CAN SUMMON ONE OF THOSE THINGS, TOO?
OR MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOW DID YOU DO IT?!
YOU'RE AMAZING... W-WHAT WAS THAT THING?!
WHISPER
WHISPER
!?
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THAT STORE...
I WISH JUNES WOULD GO UNDER...
WH... WHAT IS THIS...?

Konishi Liquor
コーニシ酒店
Tobacco
SPEAKING OF, I HEARD THAT KONISHI-SAN'S DAUGHTER, SAKI-CHAN, STARTED A PART-TIME JOB AT JUNES...
MY... AND WHILE HER FAMILY'S STORE IS STRUGGLING...
I HEARD IT'S BECAUSE OF JUNES THAT THEIR SALES AREN'T DOING WELL.
WHAT A TROUBLESOME CHILD...
!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU, SAKI?!
THE VOICES OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE SHOPPING DISTRICT? BUT WHERE ARE THEY COMING FROM...?

I-IS THAT... SENPAI'S DAD'S VOICE...?
YOU KNOW WHAT ALL THE NEIGHBORS HAVE BEEN SAYING ABOUT YOU, DON'T YOU?!
AREN'T YOU ASHAMED?! WE'VE OWNED THIS STORE FOR GENERATIONS AND YOU'RE OUR ELDEST DAUGHTER!
IS IT FOR THE MONEY?! OR SOME GUY?! WHATEVER IT IS, WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE THAT STORE...
.....!
DAIGINJO
EVEN SENPAI'S DAD WAS SAYING ALL THESE HORRIBLE THINGS TO HER?
THAT'S SO...
gasp
THIS IS...

I WAS NEVER ABLE...
..TO TELL HIM...
THIS VOICE...
SENPAI?!
THE PHOTO WE TOOK TOGETHER FROM BEFORE...
W-WHY'S THIS HERE?
thump...
I NEVER COULD TELL HANA-CHAN THAT I ALWAYS...
HUH...? ME...?

...THOUGHT HE WAS A REAL PAIN IN THE ASS.
I DON'T GIVE A CRAP ABOUT JUNES.
I WAS ONLY FRIENDLY WITH HIM BECAUSE HE WAS THE STORE MANAGER'S SON AND EVEN IF ALL I SAID WAS THAT THE CITY SOUNDS NICE..
HE TOOK IT THE WRONG WAY AND GOT ALL EXCITED.. HE'S REALLY OBNOXIOUS.
呪
IT'S THANKS TO THAT STORE THAT OURS IS GOING UNDER, MY PARENTS YELL AT ME, AND THE NEIGHBORS JUST SAY WHATEVER THEY WANT...
IT SHOULD ALL JUST DISAPPEAR..

WITH ME SENPAI WAS ALWAYS...
SENPAI...
THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD...
I MEAN...
HOW TRAGIC...
I FEEL SO SORRY FOR MYSELF
...I MEAN, THE ONE WHO REALLY THINKS EVERYTHING'S A PAIN IN THE ASS...

...IS ME!
AHAHA...
AHAHA! YOU CAN SAY IT BETTER THAN THAT! YOU'RE ALWAYS TRYING TO ACT ALL COOL...
I DON'T THINK THAT WAY...
?
?
H-HUH? THERE'S TWO OF HIM?
WHO ARE YOU?

THIS LIFE IN THE BOONIES IS ALL A BIG PAIN, RIGHT?!
SCREW THEM BOTH!
AND JUMES, TOO...
THE SHOPPING DISTRICT...
THAT'S NOT TRUE. I...
HM... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?
IN MY HEART, I REALLY...
EH?...
STOP!
YOU'RE WRONG!
YOU'RE TERRIFIED OF BEING ALONE, SO YOU SMOOTH IT OVER BY ACTING ALL CAREFREE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE LONELY SO YOU SURROUND YOURSELF WITH PEOPLE.

YOU WERE ACTUALLY EXCITED TO FIND THIS PLACE!
AFTER ALL, YOU WERE FED UP WITH LIFE IN THE STICKS!
THERE ISN'T ANYTHING INTERESTING OUT THERE... SO YOU SHOWED UP HERE LOOKING FOR A THRILL!
THAT'S NOT TRUE! YOU'RE FULL OF SHIT!
YOU'D LOOK SO COOL... YOU MIGHT EVEN BECOME A HERO IF THINGS WENT WELL, ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU THOUGHT?
AND THE DEATH OF THE SENPAI YOU LOVED SO MUCH WAS THE PERFECT EXCUSE...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I THINK...
SENPAI, I REALLY DID...

IT'S TRUE THAT I THOUGHT THAT THE COUNTRY WAS BORING...
BUT...
DON'T SCREW WITH ME!
I'M YOU... YOUR "SHADOW"...
WHAT ARE YOU... WHO ARE YOU?!
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ...!
YOU'RE NOT ME!
I'M NOT A HORRIBLE PERSON!!

I'M ME...
HM... YES, THAT'S RIGHT...
HEH... HEH HEH...
I'M NOT PART OF YOU ANYMORE!
AHAHA!
WOOM
AH...
AHH...

I WAS...
EXCITED WHEN THE MURDERS STARTED?
FED UP WITH LIVING IN INABA?
AMAZING... THERE'S NOTHING BUT RICE FIELDS AND MOUNTAINS...
COUNTRY LIFE MUST SEEM PRETTY BORING AT FIRST, HUH?
THE ONLY KARAOKE IS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN IN A PLACE THAT LOOKS LIKE A SNACK STORE, THERE'S NOT A SINGLE BRAND CLOTHES SHOP AROUND...
THAT'S NOT TRUE, I...!
I AM A SHADOW ...
THE TRUE SELF...

I'LL CRUSH ANYTHING THAT BORES ME!

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